CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a computer system for communicating results of a data query made to a data repository, comprising:

receiving the results of the data query;

matching the data query and the results of the data query with presentation parameters stored in a second data repository;

combining the matched parameters stored in the second data repository and the results of the data query to develop a two-dimensional landscape including listed objects;

converting the two-dimensional landscape to a three-dimensional landscape including virtual objects; and

presenting the three dimensional landscape for viewing on a viewing device.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the virtual objects are related to the listed objects by the parameters stored in the second data repository.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the virtual objects are related to characteristics of the data query.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the virtual objects are related to the contents of the results of the data query.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein only a first po0rtion of the results of the data query are presented in the three dimensional landscape, and further comprising:

dynamically changing the three dimensional landscape that is presented on the viewing device in response to signals received from an input device controlled by a viewer of the three dimensional landscape.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein dynamically changing the three dimensional landscape comprises removing first virtual objects from and adding second virtual objects to the three dimensional landscape.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein the input device is a computer mouse.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein the three dimensional landscape can change relative position in any of the three dimensions.

9. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for causing a computer system to communicate results of a data query to a data repository, comprising:

receiving the results of the data query;

matching the data query and the results of the data query with presentation parameters stored in a second data repository;

combining the matched parameters stored in the second data repository and the results of the data query to develop a two-dimensional landscape including listed objects;

converting the two-dimensional landscape to a three-dimensional landscape including virtual objects; and

presenting the three dimensional landscape on a viewing device.

10. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the virtual objects are related to the listed objects by the parameters stored in the second data repository.

11. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the virtual objects are related to characteristics of the data query.

12. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the virtual objects are related to the contents of the results of the data query.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein only a first portion of the results of the data query are presented in the three dimensional landscape, and further comprising:

dynamically changing the three dimensional landscape that is presented on the viewing device in response to signals received from an input device controlled by a view of the three dimensional landscape.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein dynamically changing the three dimensional landscape comprises removing first virtual objects from and adding second virtual objects to the three dimensional landscape.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the input device is a computer mouse.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the three dimensional landscape can change relative position in any of the three dimensions.

17. A computer system for communicating results of a data query made to a data repository, comprising:

a data retrieval system for storing a plurality of data and including means to retrieve selected portions of the stored data;

a query request interpreter coupled to the data retrieval system and structured to format a data request received in a first form to a second form, and to present the second form to the data retrieval system ;

a repository of virtual landscape aspect parameters;

an aspect construction facilitator coupled to the repository of virtual landscape aspect parameters and structured receive both the second form of the data request and the request results generated therefrom, and structured to select a group of landscape parameters from the repository of virtual landscape aspect parameters that are related to at least one of the second form of the data request and the request results generated therefrom, and to convert the group of landscape parameters into a group of data objects; and

a display preparation facility structured to accept the group of display objects and prepare a three-dimensional landscape therefrom.

18. The computer system of claim 17 wherein the data retrieval system, the a repository of virtual landscape aspect parameters, and the aspect construction facilitator are located in a server computer, and the server computer further includes a data communicator structured to accept the data request received in the second form over a communication link.

19. The computer system of claim 17 wherein the query request interpreter and the display preparation facility are located in a client computer, and the client computer further includes a data communicator structured to receive the group of display objects over a communication link.

20. The computer system of claim 19 wherein the client computer further includes a user interface on which the three-dimensional landscape is displayed.

21. The computer system of claim 19, wherein the communication link is wireless.

22. The computer system of claim 20 wherein the communication link uses an internet enabled protocol and wherein the user interface is a computer monitor.

23. A computer implemented method to present results of a data query to a user, comprising:

receiving the data query from the user;

providing the data query to a first data repository;

receiving the results of the data query from the data repository;

matching the data query and the results of the data query with presentation parameters stored in a second data repository;

combining the matched parameters stored in the second data repository and the results of the data query to form a list of data objects;

converting the list of data objects to a three-dimensional landscape including virtual objects; and

presenting the three dimensional landscape on a user viewing device.

24. The computer implemented method of claim 23 wherein the user viewing device is coupled to the World Wide Web.

25. The computer implemented method of claim 23 wherein the data query is a list of objects offered for sale.

26. The computer implemented method of claim 23 wherein the data query is a list of objects offered for rent.

27. The computer implemented method of claim 25 wherein the three-dimensional landscape includes three-dimensional representations of at least some of the objects offered for sale.

28. The computer implemented method of claim 25 wherein the three-dimensional landscape represents a virtual store including at least some of the objects offered for sale.

29. The computer implemented method of claim 25, further including dynamically changing the three dimensional landscape that is presented on the viewing device in response to signals received from an input device controlled by the user.